



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR DUVAL COUNTY CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION DISTRICT**

**BENAVIDES, TEXAS, February 7, 2006--** Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced that the Duval County Conservation and Reclamation District has been selected to receive \$2,582,000 through the agency's Community Program's Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program. The funding will be used for water system improvements in the communities of Benavides, Realitos, and Concepcion. Improvements to the water system in Benavides include replacing existing waterlines and the installation of 82 gate valves and 40 fire hydrants. Improvements to the water system in the communities of Realitos and Concepcion involve the demolition of an elevated storage tank in each community and the construction of a new elevated storage tank for both areas.

"The USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Programs target public health benefits and economic opportunities in America's rural communities," said Daniel. "This is Phase II of a multi-phase project that will provide improved water and waste water service to the 945 customers in Duval County."

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$80.7 million of loan and grant assistance was distributed throughout rural Texas to 315,249 households. USDA Rural Development's Water and Waste Disposal Program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities with fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operating on a non-profit basis, and Indian tribes, that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 to serve Texas' more than 3.6 million rural residents. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Alice Local Office at (361) 668-0453, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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